



## **Nuclear Weapons Convention Working Group Report May 2012**

### **Background**

The Abolition 2000 NWC working group was established in 1996 to promote consideration of and negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC), which would prohibit the development, production, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and provide for their elimination. This is to implement the main goal of Abolition 2000 – the achievement of such a convention. The group was initially chaired by Jurgen Scheffran and Alyn Ware. Merav Datan joined as a co-chair for a number of years. Alyn continues as the current chair.

### **Successes**

#### **1. United Nations resolution**



In 1996, Abolition 2000 assisting in drafting a UN resolution on follow-up to the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion calling for implementation of the disarmament obligation through negotiations leading to the conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention. A2000 members lobbied successfully to secure support from nearly 120 countries.

The resolution was updated in 2010 to take into account the progress on a nuclear weapons convention including the NPT agreement, the Model NWC and the UN Secretary-General's five point plan (see below). Abolition

2000 lobbying encouraged some opposing countries to drop their opposition (e.g. Norway and Iceland) and some abstaining countries to vote in favour (e.g. Kazakhstan and Tajikistan). The number of countries voting in favour was increased to 133.

The resolution provides an opportunity for campaigners to highlight the official support for a NWC around the world and, in countries that do not support, to publicly call on their governments to change their vote. It provides an opportunity to raise the issue of support for a NWC in parliaments (by asking parliamentary questions on their government's vote) and to raise it in the media.

The resolution has also set out a strategic approach to advancing the nuclear weapons convention in a way that combines incremental measures with a comprehensive approach. It does this both in the text of the resolution and in the statements by Malaysia, the principal sponsor.

#### **2. Model Nuclear Weapons Convention**

In 1996, the working group established a group of experts to draft a Model Nuclear Weapons Convention, based on the Chemical Weapons Convention, outlining the legal, technical, political and institutional elements required to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons. The Model NWC was released in 1997, submitted to the United Nations by the government of Costa Rica, and circulated as an official UN document in all UN languages.

In 2007, the group of experts revised the Model NWC, taking into consideration political and institutional developments since 1997. The revised Model NWC was promoted by the UN Secretary-General in his Five-Point Plan for Nuclear Disarmament.

### 3. Security and Survival: The Case for a Nuclear Weapons Convention

In 1999, three Abolition 2000 organisations (IPPNW, IALANA and INESAP) published the book *Security and Survival: The Case for a Nuclear Weapons Convention*. The book explains what a NWC would be, discusses the arguments for a NWC, explores the political process for achieving a NWC, and considers critical questions which need to be addressed. It also includes the Model NWC. Principal writers were the co-chairs of the A2000 NWC working group – Merav Datan, Jurgen Scheffran and Alyn Ware. In 2007 the book was revised with Felicity Hill joining the group of principal authors. The revised version was renamed *Securing our Survival: The Case for a Nuclear Weapons Convention*.

### 4. Roundtables, seminars, presentations and articles on a NWC

The proposal for a NWC and the exploration of what it might involve (based on the Model NWC) have been the subject of numerous roundtables, seminars and presentations on a NWC by members of the A2000 working group and other A2000 members. These have taken place at the United Nations, NPT meetings, in capitals, in universities and at public events.

### 5. Public opinion polls

Abolition 2000 members supported and promoted public opinion polls in nuclear weapons States and their allies indicating that the majority of people in these countries supported negotiations for a global treaty to abolish nuclear weapons. Abolition 2000 members have presented these to governments at the UN General Assembly and NPT meetings to advance a NWC.

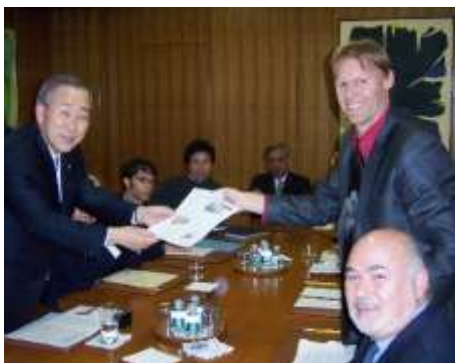
### 6. UN Secretary-General's Five Point Plan

Abolition 2000 members worked with the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs and successive UN Under-Secretary-Generals (or High Reps) for Disarmament on advancing the NWC as part of the framework for the UNSG to advance nuclear disarmament. In 2008 we co-sponsored events at the United Nations with the East-West Institute at which the UN Secretary-General released a Five-Point Plan for Nuclear Disarmament, and at which governments and disarmament experts discussed the proposal in his plan for negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or package of agreements.



### 7. Parliamentary statements and resolutions supporting a NWC

Abolition 2000 members, in conjunction with PNND, have been working with parliamentarians to promote



Presenting the Parliamentarians' Statement Supporting a Nuclear Weapons Convention to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

the NWC with parliamentarians and in parliaments particularly through the *Parliamentary Statement Supporting and Nuclear Weapons Convention*, and the adoption of parliamentary resolutions supporting either a NWC specifically, or the UNSG's Five-Point Plan which includes a NWC. To date, such resolutions have been adopted (mostly by consensus) in the parliaments of Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Italy, Mexico and New Zealand. In addition we have succeeded in getting resolutions adopted in the European Parliament and the Inter Parliamentary Union which comprises over 150 parliaments, including most the NWS and their allies. These resolutions were presented to the UN Secretary-General and the States Parties to the NPT at a panel during the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

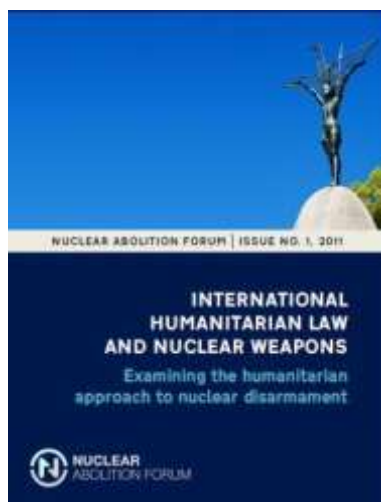
## 8. Other influential statements and resolutions

Abolition 2000 members have been working to achieve influential statements and resolutions in other bodies. One example of our success was the advocacy we undertook with members of the Inter-Action Council, 20 former Heads of State, which resulted in them adopting a statement in May 2011 supporting negotiations for a NWC and a preparatory process to commence such work. The former Heads of State adopting the statement included **Jean Chrétien** (former Prime Minister of Canada), **Helmut Schmidt** (former Chancellor of Germany), **Oscar Arias** (former President of Costa Rica), **Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi** (former Prime Minister of Malaysia), **James Bolger** (former Prime Minister of New Zealand), **Gro Brundtland** (former Prime Minister of Norway), **William Jefferson Clinton** (former President of the United States of America), **Yasuo Fukuda** (former Prime Minister of Japan), **Abdul-Aziz Al-Quraishi** (former Governor of Saudi Arabia), **Vaira Vi"e-Freiberga** (former President of Latvia) and **Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León** (former President of Mexico).

## 9. 2010 NPT Review Conference

Abolition 2000 members actively called on governments to agree at the 2010 NPT Review Conference to commence negotiations. This was partially successful in that the States Parties agreed that "All States need to make special efforts to establish the necessary framework to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons." The Conference noted in this regard "the Five-Point Proposal for Nuclear Disarmament of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which proposes *inter alia* the consideration of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or a framework of separate mutually reinforcing instruments." However, the governments did not agree to start negotiations, nor give any timeframe for the start of such negotiations.

## 10. Nuclear Abolition Forum



In October 2011, a number of Abolition 2000 organisations launched the *Nuclear Abolition Forum - Dialogue on the Process to Achieve and Sustain a Nuclear Weapons Free World*. The Forum fosters debate on key legal, technical, institutional and political elements for achieving the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons under a Nuclear Weapons Convention or package of agreements, as well as the process to achieving this. To this end, the Forum offers a dedicated website and a periodical to facilitate dialogue between academics, governments, disarmament experts and NGOs on such elements.

The inaugural magazine focused on the application of international humanitarian law to nuclear weapons. The next issue will focus on nuclear deterrence.

### Nuclear Abolition Forum launch – October 2011

*I very much welcome the emphasis placed by the architects of the Nuclear Abolition Forum in rekindling and sustaining a dialogue over fundamental questions relating to the achievement of nuclear disarmament. While there are roughly 12 arguments that have repeatedly been invoked and recycled over many decades against nuclear disarmament, this Forum offers a superb opportunity for abolition advocates to challenge such glib assertions and expose their weak-nesses, while affirming the concrete positive advantages of disarmament.*

H.E. Sergio Duarte, UN High Rep on Disarmament Affairs

## 11. Liaising with other NWC initiatives and campaigns

There have emerged a number of initiatives and campaigns for a NWC in addition to those mentioned above, including the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision, Ban All Nukes Generation, Middle Powers Initiative Framework Forum, Religions for Peace Arms Down Campaign, SGI Decade for Nuclear Abolition, International Campaign for Nuclear Abolition, United Religious Initiative and Global Zero. Some of these are part of the A2000 network. Others aren't. A2000 working group members work to liaise with and engage these other campaigns.

One example of collaboration: in New Zealand, Abolition 2000 and Ban All Nukes Generation ran a number of advertisements in major national and university newspapers linking nuclear abolition with rugby – New Zealand's major sport – and making a call on the Prime Minister John Key - "Don't drop the ball!" (the ball being a nuclear weapons treaty). It also included an advertisement run during the visit of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon which coincided with the Rugby World Cup.

## 12. Materials

The working group makes background documents available on the Abolition 2000 website, including the Model NWC, background fact-sheets, the public opinion polls, UN resolutions etc...

## 13. Updates

The working group members update the A2000 network on key developments with respect to a NWC through the electronic newsletter and the abolition caucus list-serve.

Contact:

Alyn Ware

Chair, Abolition 2000 NWC  
Working Group

PO Box 24-429, Manners St,  
Wellington, Aotearoa-New Zealand  
alyn@lcn.org

## Kiwis for a Nuclear Abolition Treaty!

Welcome United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to New Zealand  
for the Pacific Islands Forum



Dear UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon,

Haere mai! Welcome to the Pacific Islands Forum and to New Zealand – a country passionate about **rugby** and **nuclear abolition**. We commend you for working with U.S. President Obama, other world leaders and civil society to implement the vision for a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Last year our parliament unanimously endorsed your proposal for negotiations on a global treaty to abolish nuclear weapons, similar to the treaties banning chemical and biological weapons, cluster munitions and landmines. As Kiwis we are as proud of our anti-nuclear policies as we are of our national rugby.

The All Blacks - and other rugby teams - have worked hard for the World Cup that begins this week. We urge our **Prime Minister John Key** to work just as hard for nuclear abolition - by joining with other leaders to begin negotiations on a **global treaty** as you have proposed.

Game on!

Join the campaign for a nuclear-weapons-free world!

Visit: [www.Abolition2000.org](http://www.Abolition2000.org)